## **HUNTER EDUCATION FAQS**

## Important Facts about your certification!

- Certification is good for life.
- Louisiana certification is honored by all other states and provinces.
- You must carry proof of certification on your person while hunting.
- The card is not required to purchase a hunting license.

# 1. Who is required to take the Hunter Education course?

Act 149 of the 1984 Louisiana Legislature established mandatory hunter education for any hunter born on or after September 1, 1969. All hunters (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after this date must successfully complete the course in order to hunt in Louisiana. Some exemptions apply, see below.

Exemption #1: A person who has not completed a hunter education course may be issued a license with the restriction that they are accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older who has a valid unrestricted hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter education course or was born prior to September 1, 1969 and has a valid hunting license. Exemption #2: A person younger than 16 years of age may hunt without such certificate if they are accompanied by, and under the direct supervision, of a person 18 years of age or older who has a valid unrestricted hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter education course or was born prior to September 1, 1969 and has a valid hunting license.

**Note**: for the purposes of the exemptions above, "Direct Supervision" means that a person being supervised shall be within normal audible voice proximity and in direct line of sight of the supervising adult at all times while hunting.

## 2. Are military & police exempted?

Any active or veteran member of the United States armed services or any current POST-certified law enforcement officer may apply for an exemption card. Applications can be filed at a LDWF field office or the Education Section office in Baton Rouge. Anyone applying must submit an exemption form, copy of their driver's license and a copy of verifications papers. Verification papers can be current "POST" certification (Police Officers), a DD214 Form (Veterans) or a Green Card (Active Military). This exemption is only valid in Louisiana.

## 3. Do I need a hunter education card to purchase a license?

No, you are not required to show your hunter education certification card when you purchase a license. However, the license may be marked as "Restricted" until you take the required course.

# 4. My hunting license has "Restricted" on it, what does that mean?

It means that your hunter education card number is not tied to your license data or you have not completed the hunter education class. You can still hunt with a restricted

license, but you must either have your hunter education card in your possession when you hunt or be under the direct supervision of someone 18 years of age or older who has a valid unrestricted hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter education course or was born prior to September 1, 1969 and has a valid hunting license. If you want to have the "restricted" notation removed from future licenses, you need to have your hunter education card number added to your license data. You can have your hunter education card number added to your license data by contacting the LDWF Sport License Section (225-765-2887).

#### 5. How do I take a hunter education course?

Hunter education courses are offered in 2 formats:

- 1) The standard classroom course which consists of 10 hours of instruction over 2-3 days on subjects such as firearms and outdoor safety, wildlife management and ethics. You will also be required to demonstrate safe firearm handling skills.
- 2) A home-study course in which you will complete a prescribed course of study in safety, wildlife management and ethics on your home computer at your own pace. After completing the home-study subject matter, you will take a test and print a voucher to show that you completed the home-study material. You will then attend a 6-hour field day where the home-study material will be reviewed and you will have to demonstrate safe firearm handling. You must bring your voucher to the Field Day. The Field Day is mandatory and you cannot receive hunter education certification without attending the field day if you choose to take the home study course. The home-study course is not recommended for persons under 14 years old.

#### 6. How do I enroll in a course?

Most classes require advance registration to attend. You can register for the standard classroom course, take the online home study course, or register for a field day from the LDWF website: <a href="www.wlf.la.gov/hunting/hunter-education">www.wlf.la.gov/hunting/hunter-education</a>. A schedule of classes is available on the LDWF website. You can also call any LDWF Education Section office to register for a class or inquire about class availability.

If you choose to take the home-study course, you can access it directly from the LDWF website – there is a \$15.00 charge to access it directly online. You may also take it using a CD-ROM which is available from any LDWF Education Section office. There is no charge for the CD-ROM version of the home study course. Remember, after completing either version of the home-study course, you must register and attend a Field Day to receive hunter education certification.

# 7. If I have Hunter Education certification from another state do I have to take the Louisiana course?

No, all state certifications are acceptable for meeting the requirements of Louisiana law.

#### 8. How old must a person be to become Hunter Education certified?

Anyone at any age can take the course, but only those age 10 and above are eligible for hunter education certification

## 9. I lost my card. How do I get a replacement?

A duplicate hunter and bowhunter education card may be ordered by logging on to: <a href="http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/hunter-education">http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/hunter-education</a> or by calling any LDWF Education Section office. Duplicate cards are issued free of charge.

#### 10. How much does a hunter education course cost?

There is no charge to attend a hunter education classroom course. There is a \$15.00 contracted server fee to take the online home-study version, but no charge for the "Field Day" part.

# 11. Can I bring my own gun to the course?

No, all equipment and materials are provided.

# 12. Is there a possibility of failing the course?

Yes, the minimum score on the written test is 75 percent. You can also fail as a result of unsafe gun handling skills. In addition, disruptive behavior or not attending the entire course can cause you to fail.

## 13. Is bowhunter education required to bowhunt in Louisiana?

No, it is not required anywhere in Louisiana.

#### 14. Who teaches Hunter Education courses?

LDWF certified volunteer instructors and education staff teach courses throughout the state. The volunteer instructor staff is made up of men and women who dedicate their personal time teaching courses in many communities.

# 15. What should I bring to a Hunter Education course?

The only thing you need to bring is a black ink pen. However, if you are attending a "Field Day", you must also bring your voucher from the home study course.

#### 16. What do I need to hunt on federal lands?

People hunting on federal lands (military bases, Kisatchie National Forest, National Wildlife Refuges, etc), should check the regulations specific to the area they are hunting for hunter safety requirements. Many federal lands require that all hunters have hunter education certification in order to hunt.